

Shipping

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED.
FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI
The Company's Steamship

"FOKIEN,"
Captain Davis, will be despatched for the above ports on SUNDAY, the 28th instant, at daylight.
For Freight or Passage, apply to

For Freight or Passage, apply to
DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co
General Managers.
Hongkong, 25th May, 1893.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH THE AUSTRIAN
GOVERNMENT.
STEAM FOR
SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO

**BOMBAY, ADEN, SUERZ, PORT SAID
BRINDISI, VENICE, FIUME,
AND TRIESTE.**
Taking Cargo at through rates to CALCUTTA,
MADRAS, PERSIAN GULF, RED SEA, BLACK SEA,
LEVANT and ADRIATIC PORTS).

THE Company's Steamship
"THISBE,"
Captain G. Constanro, will be despatched
above on TUESDAY, the 6th June, at Noon

Cargo will not be received on board after 4 P.M. prior to date of sailing.
For further information as to Passage Freight, apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & CO
Hongkong, 24th May, 1891.

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE
(Calling at PORT DARWIN, and QUEENSLAND)

THE Steamship
"AIRLIE."

Captain Ellis, will be despatched for the a
Ports on SATURDAY, the 10th proximo
Noon.
This well-known Steamer is specially
for Passengers, and has large Cooling C

Ice, &c., throughout the voyage. A duly qualified Surgeon and Stewardess are carried.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.
Agents.

Hongkong, 19th May, 1893.

SAILING VESSELS.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

THE 100 A. L. British Ship
"CELTIC CHIEF,"
 Owen, Master, will load here for the a
 Port, and will have quick despatch.
 For Freight, apply to

Hongkong, 20th February, 1893.

SHEWAN & CO.
FOR NEW YORK.
THE 3/3 L. I. I. German Ship

"IRON DUKE,"
 Hashagen, Master, will load here for the
 Port, and will have quick despatch.
 For Freight, apply to **SHEWAN & CO.**

Consignees.
"MOGUL" LINE OF STEAMERS

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
S. S. "ARGYLL,"
FROM GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL AND
STRAITS.
CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed

that all Goods are being landed at risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Kowloon, whence and/or from the wharves very may be obtained.

Options. Cargo will be forwarded to notice to the contrary be given before 3 TO-DAY.

No Claims will be admitted after the have left the Godowns, and all Goods remain undelivered after the 20th instant will be a

All claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the instant, or they will not be recognised.
All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods

No Fire Insurance has been effected.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
DODWELL, CARLILL & Co
Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd May, 1893.

To be Let.

TO LET.

OFFICES, 1ST & 2ND FLOORS of 1
Queen's Road Central, over the B
China, Japan and Straits, Limited.
Nos. 11 & 12, COOMBE ROYAL—
Furnished House at Magazine Gap.

No. 10, OLD BAILEY STREET.
No. 7, PRAYA CENTRAL, at present
pled by the New Oriental Bank in Liquidation.
NEW HOUSES IN RIPON TERRACE-
ham Road, near Brecon Point.
NEW HOUSES in High Street, Pool

**NEW HOUSES in Edge Street, F&S
and Staunton Street, No. 1
No. 4, BLUE BUILDINGS.
FLOORS in Blue Buildings.
GODOWN, No. 1A, Blue Buildings.
SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES at Ma**

Gap. Very cheap Rental.
"GROUND FLOOR No. 4, Shelley Street
"THE WILDERNESS," Calne Road.
OFFICES, in Praya Central above a
Douglas Lapraik & Co.'s Offices.
Apply to

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
& AGENCY Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 16th May, 1893.
TO LET.

FOUR ROOMS (furnished or unfurnished) above the KOWLOON CLUB, Kowloon, with Two BATH ROOMS. Separate entrance. *Also,*
ONE GODOWN, No. 117, Praya East.
Apply to **THE EASTERN**

DORABJEE NOWRO
Victoria Hotel
Hongkong, 18th May, 1893.

Intimations.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

AERATED WATERS.

WATER.—The Water used is absolutely pure.

STEAM PLANT.—Of the latest and most powerful type.

SUPERVISION.—The whole process of manufacture is under the continuous supervision of a qualified English Chemist.

The **PRODUCT**—Will bear comparison with the Waters made by the most noted makers in England.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & CO., LD.,

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.



CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATERS.

OUR NEW FACTORY has been recently refitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

"BOMBAY SODAS."

We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, *Free of Extra Charge*, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS. whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For **COAST PORTS**, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties when received in good condition.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied free on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is "DISPENSARY, HONGKONG." And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock:—

PURE AERATED WATER.

SODA WATER

LEMONADE

POTASH WATER

SELTZER WATER

LITHIA WATER

SARSAPARILLA WATER

TONIC WATER

LEMON SQUASH

GINGER ALE

RASPBERRYADE

GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
The Hongkong Dispensary, Hongkong.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1893.

TELEGRAMS.

YORKSHIRE BEATS AUSTRALIA.

LONDON, 25th May, 1893.
In the cricket match between the Australian team and York County, the Yorkshire players won by 64 runs.

LORD SALISBURY ON THE STUMP.
The Marquis of Salisbury, addressing a meeting of five thousand persons at Belfast, asserted that the Crown veto and the supremacy of Parliament afforded no protection against Government by the nominees of Archbishop Walsh and Mr. Timothy Healy.

His lordship further said that Ulster was certain to win if the 'hold out' but strongly advised all supporters of the Unionist cause to act with moderation and to abstain from rioting.

THE SIAM IMBROGLIO.

The French Press is urging vigorous action against Siam, and accuses Great Britain of thwarting France in her military operations on the Siam frontiers.

(Special to N. C. Daily News)

DISASTROUS EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN.

Kobe, May 26th.
There was a terrific eruption of Asamayama in the Bural-san range yesterday. It is feared that there has been great loss of life and property.

ANOTHER JAPANESE STEAMER LOST.

The Japanese steamer *Mino Maru*, belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, has run on shore during a fog near Tsuruga Straits. She will be a total loss.

[The *Mino Maru* is a vessel of 533 tons net register, and 95 nominal horse-power; she was built at Dumbarton in 1884.—Ed.]

A TANK STEAMER ASHORE IN JAPAN.

May 21st, 9.58 p.m.
The tank steamer *Trevas*, 2,657 tons, which arrived on the 9th from Batoum, was driven ashore at Wada Point last night in a heavy gale. She makes no water.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

It is said that the cheapest dress supplied by the famous Worth costs £30.

This local Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders announce a smoking concert for the evening of Saturday next at 9 o'clock.

UNCONSCIOUS REPARTEE.—Visiting Priest—Good morning, daughter of the Evil One. Little Girl (sweetly)—Good morning, father.

The Northern Pacific Co's steamer *Mogul* will leave at noon to-morrow for Tacoma, via Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama, and Victoria.

It is stated that lepers are now being remitted to the New South Wales leper station from among the general community at the rate of one a month.

We regret to read that the ex-Empress Eugenie, whose feet were once clothed in the daintiest and most silky-like slippers, is suffering much from gout and rheumatism.

DURING the past century 273 French generals have been killed in battle or have died of their wounds. The list, divided according to rank, includes three field marshals, eighty-three generals of division and 187 generals of brigade.

The Agents (Messrs. Dodwell, Carill & Co.) inform us that the Northern Pacific Steamship Co's steamer *Victoria* which left Victoria on the 11th inst. arrived at Yokohama this morning, and will leave for this port, via Kobe, to-morrow.

On the north-west coast of Australia the maps show a line of some thirteen miles long by one wide, named Expedition Island. This has lately disappeared and there is now an average depth of fifty-eight feet of water over the area where the island once stood.

At a special meeting of members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong, to be held at the Association's Rooms, Praya Central, at 9 p.m. on Monday, May 29th, the discussion on Capt. G. C. Anderson's paper on "Coal" will be resumed.

A YOUNG woman attached to the staff of a London newspaper was a victim of the vilest of the *Feima*, a girl of the street of that village the other day and almost caused a riot before she had progressed very far. She was obliged to seek refuge in an omnibus and was charged double fare because of her rigging.

SEVERAL of the men-of-war in the harbour were decorated yesterday in honour of Queen Victoria's birthday; and to-day, being the day officially appointed for celebrating the anniversary, almost all the vessels in the harbour hung out their signal-codes, and at noon royal salutes were fired from the *Victor Emanuel*, *Triumphante*, *Diu*, and *Murray* batteries.

THE *N. C. Daily News* says it is doubtful whether the expense of blowing up the wreck of the *Feima*, sunk near Wootton, will be incurred. There is very little of her now above the bottom of the river, and steamers that touch her do not seem to get any damage from the contact. There are still a few inches more water in the "Feima" channel than in the old passage, but the difference is only slight.

APPLICANT for life insurance—No, sir; I neither drink, chew, nor swear; I don't go to the theatre or attend balls, and have no evil associates. I am at home always at 10 o'clock; am a Sunday school teacher, and my morals are above reproach. I never had a day's sickness in my life. Agent—That is an extra hazardous risk young man, and we can't take it. Applicant—What! Agent—No. The good die young, you know.

THE Band of the 1st Shropshire Light Infantry will play the following programme at the Barrack Square, this evening, commencing at 7.30 o'clock:—

Polka—"Demanda"	Waldmann
Waltz—"The Jolly"	Cole
Schottische—"Bambina"	Newton
Polka—"The River"	Waldmann
Waltz—"The River of Youth"	Waldmann
Quadrille—"Round about"	Waldmann
Waltz—"Our Last Waltz"	Waldmann

OWING to a typographical error *Alves* alleged delinquencies were made to appear in our issue of last night at a fabulous amount instead of the mere bagatelle of \$63,817.73. In our opinion however, which we shall fully elaborate later on, the Treasury robberies during the past thirty years, if the books, etc. were or could be thoroughly checked, would probably exceed a quarter of a million dollars. Any person who believes that these gigantic wholesale frauds only started in 1886, must have taken leave of his senses.

THE Hebrew, remarks a *Sydney Bulletin*, while climbing on to the throne, Ferdinand of Bulgaria is about to be married to the gilded daughter of a Jew-banker named Blecholder, and as the lady refuses to change her creed she will be the first royal Jewess in Europe. The rest is only a matter of time. Out of this marriage will arise some future King of Montenegro, and he will gradually gain a mortgage on the surrounding States and take them in, till his not very remote descendant Samuel is one of the Great Powers of Europe.

It is reported from Klukiang that a foreigner belonging to one of the firms at that port, who went across the river on the 10th inst. for revolver and gun practice, accidentally shot a countryman in the leg. This speedily brought on him a mob who seemed disposed to tear the luckless marksman to pieces. Fortunately the local authorities heard of the matter in time to restrain the lawless mob, and he will gradually gain a mortgage on the surrounding States and take them in, till his not very remote descendant Samuel is one of the Great Powers of Europe.

THERE is only one landed proprietor in England possessed of more than 100,000 acres in one country; there are three in Ireland, and no less than fourteen in Scotland.

OUR Shanghai morning contemporary reports that on Saturday morning last (May 20th), a Chinaman living in Hongkong caught his wife and a friend in *flagrant delicto*. He tied the lecher couple together on a wheelbarrow, and took them through the streets for public exhibition, in a state of nudity, until stopped by a policeman. The husband and his captives were conveyed to the Mixed Court.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held to-day. Mr. H. Hoppus presided and there were also present Messrs D. R. Sassoon, A. G. Wood, J. Kramer, A. McFarlane, C. F. Fenton (directors), T. B. Conchile (secretary), Wei Yuk, J. D. Monro, V. A. C. Hawkins, H. E. R. Hunter, R. Crawford, D. A. Silva, G. C. Cox, H. H. Joseph, J. H. Cox, A. P. da Costa, A. M. Rosa Pereira, C. J. Holliday, and A. B. Johnson.

The Secretary read the notice of meeting. The Chairman—Gentlemen, we have met here to-day, as you have heard by the notice of meeting read by the Secretary, to confirm the resolution passed at our meeting on the 1st May last. I have nothing to add to the remarks made by the Chairman at that meeting, and therefore will proceed to propose that the resolution be confirmed, namely:—

That the first Subsection of Article 103 of the Articles of Association of The China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, with its marginal note, be expunged, and that in lieu thereof the following Subsection and marginal note be inserted, viz:—

1st.—It may invest the Funds of the Company in or upon English, Indian, and Hongkong Government Stocks, Bonds, and Funds, and in or upon the Stocks, Bonds, Funds, and Securities of any Foreign Government, Country, or State, and upon Mortgage of freehold or leasehold property in Hongkong or elsewhere, and in or upon deposits with or loans to interest in any Banking or other financial institution established in or upon such other Securities as it may in its discretion think fit, and may from time to time convert or realise any monies so invested and re-invest the same in or upon any of the Securities aforesaid as occasion requires.

Mr. Wood seconded the motion, which was carried.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of the Victoria Recreation Club was held last night. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Chairman of the Club) presided, and there was a large attendance.

The Chairman, after reviewing the very satisfactory reports of the sub-committees and general committee, with special reference to the increasing popularity of rowing, gymnastic competitions and smoking concerts, to the new floating bath-house, and to the change in the stewardship, went on to mention that he had been in communication with the Government as to obtaining a new site for a new Club House, etc. Nothing definite had resulted as yet, but it had been ascertained that some day in the dim and distant future the Naval Yard forebore was to be reclaimed, and probably when that was finished the Club could have to remove further down. It would then be advisable to obtain a site on a more satisfactory tenure than the present one. He was certain that the authorities fully recognised the value of the Club to the general community, and the Governor, who was president of the Club, would do all he could for it.

There being no question of report and accounts were adopted, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Wood.

On the motion of Mr. E. Friedrichs, seconded by Mr. G. Meynell, Mr. Stewart Lockhart was heartily thanked for his services to the Club as Chairman.

On the motion of Mr. Master, seconded by Mr. Adamson, rule 27 was altered to read as follows:—

The sum of \$500 may, at the discretion of the Committee, be transferred annually to the reserve or Typographical Committee shall reach \$500 and the Committee shall vote (if the funds in their opinion justify it) a sum not exceeding \$500, to the Regatta Fund; but the balance, if any after the general working expenses have been paid, shall be devoted annually to the general improvement and efficiency of the Club as shall be deemed advisable by the Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Master, seconded by the Chairman, it was resolved that nobody under the age of fifteen should be admitted as a member of the Club.

The ballot for officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart; Chairman, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart; Bath-house Sub-Committee, Mr. A. A. Sousa, J. R. Michael, and G. Meynell; Boat-house Sub-Committee, E. Friedrichs, W. H. Potts, and G. C. Master; Gymnasium Sub-Committee, H. Thompson, C. T. Robinson, and A. Turner; Hon. Treasurer, J. Hutton; Hon. Secretary, E. D. Sanders.

This concluded the proceedings.

THE PO LEUNG KUK.

On the 29th April, 1893, His Excellency the Governor appointed a special Committee consisting of Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Registrar General (Chairman), Mr. F. H. May, Acting Colonial Treasurer, and Messrs. C. B. Chater, Ho Kai, and T. H. Whitehead, unofficial members of the Legislative Council, to investigate and report on certain points connected with the Bill for the Incorporation of the Po Leung Kuk, and the Society for the Protection of Women and Girls.

The particular matters which His Excellency wished the Committee to investigate and report on were as follows:—

1. Whether it is advisable to give the Society a legal status.
2. (A.) Whether provision should be made for such status in a Bill similar to that under discussion or (B.) whether, as suggested by the Secretary of State to years ago, the Society should be formed under the Companies' Act of 1865, and its rules and organisation formally approved by the Government.
3. Whether it is in any sense, as suggested by the Honourable T. H. Whitehead, a "Secret Society."
4. Whether any of the subscriptions have been obtained by "pressure" or "order," as asserted by the same Honourable Member.
5. Whether some of the Runners are disreputable and "squeezed," as suggested by a Member of the Police Force.
6. Whether a grant not exceeding \$30,000 should be made by the Government or whether it would be preferable to hand over the block of houses situated in New Street, including the first floor and the site, to the Society instead of making them a grant in money.
7. Whether the Proceedings, Books, Buildings, &c., of the Society should not at all times be made accessible to Justices of the Peace, Magistrates and others.

8. Whether the last clause of the Bill should not be omitted altogether.

9. Whether in any case a suspending clause should not be attached to the Ordinance. The meetings held by the Committee extended from May 12th, 1893, until the 10th February, 1894, the evidence of thirteen witnesses being taken. An application from Mr. Francis, Q.C., and Messrs. Wotton and Deacon, solicitors, to appear at the meetings on behalf of the Po Leung Kuk, was considered and it was decided by a majority that if it were found the absence of counsel was likely to adversely affect the interests of the Society, the application would be granted. It was also decided to exclude the representatives of the Press on the grounds that the proceedings would be taken down by a shorthand writer and ultimately published, and would serve no useful purpose to have them made public while the inquiry was being conducted.

The following report, dated 3rd April, 1894, was rendered by the Registrar General, Dr. Ho Kai, and Mr. F. H. May:—

(1) At present the Society has no definite legal status and is at liberty to work independently of the Government under its present Rules and Regulations; though as a matter of fact it has been the custom of the Society for many years to disregard its rules in this respect, and to work in co-operation with the Registrar General. We think that, both in the interests of the Society and of the public, the powers of the Society should be clearly defined by law and that it should not, as at present, have power to carry on its work independently of the Government. The Society has been found to work most effectively in association with a Government officer, and we recommend that this principle of association should be definitely laid down by law instead of as at present being left to the discretion of each individual director.

(2) We are in favour of a Bill similar to that under discussion, and in that opinion are supported by the Chinese witnesses whom we have examined. If the Society be formed under the Companies Act of 1865, it would be quite possible to avoid the principle of Government association, which we and also the Chinese witnesses consider essential to the proper and effective working of the Society. In the draft bill now before the Legislative Council that principle is clearly laid down. We are also in favour of the draft bill as being a less circuitous and less expensive way of arriving at the object aimed at than forming the Society under the Companies Ordinance.

With reference to the draft ordinance considerable misapprehension seems to exist regarding the powers it confers on the Po Leung Kuk. The draft bill gives no increased powers to the Po Leung Kuk. It in fact brings the Society more under the control of the Government than it ever, theoretically, has been previously. Beyond the principle of Government supervision and the introduction of the principle of a permanent Board of Directors, which the members of the Society have shown to be most desirable and which the Chinese consider "will not only inspire confidence among the public, but will also help to increase the efficiency of the Society," the various sections of the draft bill are but merely a reproduction of the present rules and regulations of the Society, which have been formally sanctioned by the Secretary of State and the Colonial Government of this Colony, and which are in the eyes of the majority of the Chinese quite as authoritative as any Ordinance. We are of opinion that the distinction between Regulations approved by the Secretary of State and promulgated by the Government and an Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council, approved by the Secretary of State and promulgated by the Government, is one which many Chinese would not readily recognise. It has been suggested that if the President be empowered on any question he should have the right of appeal to the Governor. Though the Registrar General considers such a contingency not likely to arise, we think there can be no objection to the President and the Committee of the Society the right of appeal to the Governor in cases where there may be a wide difference of opinion.

As regards point 8, we see no reason why the last clause of the Bill should not be omitted altogether. The clause is not an innovation, for it is simply a reproduction of Regulation No. 13 of the present Rules and Regulations of the Po Leung Kuk—a regulation which has always, we understand, been a dead letter. So far as we are aware it is not unlawful "for the Governor to direct a committee to direct a certain number of detectives and constables to be placed at the service" of any Society. It seems unnecessary, therefore, to say that such a discretionary power is lawful.

With reference to point 9, we see no necessity for the addition of a suspending clause, but if His Excellency desires to add one, we have no objections to urge.

As regards point 7, whether the proceedings, books, buildings, etc., of the Society should not at all times be made accessible to Justices of the Peace, Magistrates and others, we beg to point out that under section 14 of the draft Ordinance provision is made for the inspection of the buildings and premises of the Society, and that, however, no provision making the proceedings and books of the Society accessible to Justices of the Peace and Magistrates. We think it would be well to add a provision to the section referred to, making the proceedings and books of the Society accessible to such persons as the Governor may appoint.

(3) In Appendix 47 will be found Mr. Whitehead's explanation of what he meant when he called the Society a "Secret Society." He said that the use of the term "Secret Society" is without justification, as the Po Leung Kuk is in no sense a Secret Society, the members of its staff, and cannot be properly applied to a Society which has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State and is recognised by and co-operates with Government, which for more than 13 years has been assisting in its work of rescuing women and girls of finding a shelter for the destitute, and of restoring kidnapped and abandoned members of the most highly respectable Chinese residents of Hongkong, which possesses carefully kept records in detail of all its transactions, and which publishes an annual report of its work as full, if not fuller than similar societies in other parts of the world. The Committee of the Society in its memorandum says:—

"From the very nature of the Society, the chief object of which is to aid the Government in detecting and suppressing the crime of kidnapping, it is necessary that its work, to a certain extent, should not be carried on too openly, or else it would defeat its own ends. But so far as the premises of the Society or its records or the girls entrusted to its care or the inquiries of the Committee are concerned, the Committee have nothing to hide, and have never attempted to act with secrecy. All their acts are known to the Government, and they have never objected to admit to their meetings or to the inspection of their premises, any respectable person whose object is not to spy out the land, but who wishes to see how their work is carried on, or to give a helping hand in the rescue of poor women and girls saved from a fate almost worse than death."

This statement we have every reason to believe is in accordance with fact.

(4) Mr. Whitehead denies having made any such assertion or having made use of the words "pressure" or "order."

(5) We applied to the Colonial Secretary to be furnished with the name of the member of the Police Force who made this suggestion, but were informed in reply by the Honourable the Colonial Secretary that he was not in a position to state the name. The late Captain Superintendent of Police, Major-General Gordon, also informed us that he did not know who gave the information to His Excellency.

In examining the various witnesses every endeavour was made to elicit information with regard to the alleged "squeezing" by detectives of the Po Leung Kuk, but it was found impossible to ascertain anything beyond vague rumour of the same kind as exists in respect of detectives generally in Hongkong.

In the memorandum furnished by the Committee of the Po Leung Kuk they state that, "the Committee have been fully alive to the temptations to which Chinese detectives, as a class, are liable, and have, from time to time, dispensed with the services of the detectives, though they have never been able to obtain proof of any case of extortion on the part of their employees," and that "about the beginning of this year, the question of detectives was discussed with the Registrar General, and it was agreed that, in order to prevent abuses, the detectives should be changed as frequently as possible, and it was thought that might be done by borrowing the services of District Watchmen, who could be paid by the Society, and who were not employed for short periods, at the end of which they could be sent back to their regular duty in the District Watchmen's Force."

We consider that the Po Leung Kuk Society have exercised due precautions to prevent abuses arising in connection with their detectives, and are of opinion that such abuses are least likely to occur when the detectives belong to a society under Chinese supervision, the members of which are accessible to and favourably situated for obtaining information from the Chinese community. There is nothing to show that the Po Leung Kuk detectives are disreputable. On the contrary, both the detectives in the employ of the Society bear a good character. Kei-long Cheung was in the Police Force for 20 years and retired on pension in 1891, his character being good. The other, Mok Chi, who is a head district watchman, was in employ of the Society for 4 years and the Po Leung Kuk Committee state that his services were retained on account of the good work he did and of the great number of convictions he obtained in kidnapping cases. We find that since the establishment of the Po Leung Kuk there has been little or no co-operation between the Police and the Society in the detection of kidnapping and kindred offences. We are of opinion that such co-operation is highly desirable and should be encouraged, as an opinion held by the late Captain Superintendent of Police, Major-General Gordon, and which the present Acting Captain Superintendent of Police also shares, and recommend that the Po Leung Kuk detectives should report regularly to the Captain Superintendent of Police in the manner suggested by Mr. Francis in his draft constitution.

(6) In view of the good work the Society has done and is doing and of the fact that for many years it has not only assisted the Government in the suppression of kidnapping but has also taken charge of destitute, defraying the cost of their board and of their passage home, and that it will continue to perform the same charitable functions in future, thereby relieving the Government of a burden which would be very costly if it were not borne by the Society, we are of opinion that the Society should receive a money grant from Government. Seeing that the Society has collected a subscription amounting to \$10,000, we recommend a grant of \$20,000, part of which should be expended by the Society in the house in New Street which is a favourable opportunity for disposing of them.

The Hon. C. P. Chater, in a separate report dated 19th April, states that he cannot agree with the report of the majority of the Committee; and though he agrees with the Hon. T. H. Whitehead on the main issue, he does not concur to endorse Mr. Whitehead's opinions on certain matters.

Mr. Chater therefore reports:—

(1) In favour of giving the Society a legal status.

(2) In favour of incorporation by Special Ordinance, as less costly and easier than under the Companies Ordinance.

(3) The Bill ought, however, to be altered so as to make the Chinese representative in Council *ex-officio* Chairman of the Society, leaving the Registrar-General an entirely separate authority; since he would be in a very false position if, as Registrar-General, he had to exercise his power of veto over the body of which he was member.

(4) The Po Leung Kuk detectives seem to us trustworthy as any other Chinese who would be found here to do such work; but they should be carefully secured and guaranteed. With these precautions, and a greater amount of publicity given to the Society's proceedings, there should be less chance of "squeezing," as to which there have undoubtedly been persistent rumours.

(5) There is no objection to the grant of \$20,000, which might be partly covered by the sale of the houses in New Street.

(6) The Society's premises, books and proceedings should always be open to the inspection of Justices of the Peace, Magistrates, and others.

(7) The last clause of the Bill should be retained.

(8) There certainly should be a suspending clause.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead, after a careful review of the evidence taken by the Committee, shows in his report that the Po Leung Kuk is a "distinct Society" never had an existence until 1891, when the Bill was introduced; prior to that the work was nothing but a branch of the Tung Wah Hospital, the funds were Tung Wah funds, the home was the Tung Wah building, the meetings were practically meetings of Tung Wah supporters, and the persons elected were generally Tung Wah committee men. No effort appears to have been made to form a Po Leung Kuk fund until 1892, though the Government frequently urged the directors to do so; the fund raised in 1893 was raised with the idea of inducing the Government to aid, and the subscriptions were largely due to the personal solicitations of the Registrar General.

Mr. Whitehead goes on to say:—

"On this point I repeat what I said in my letter to the Government dated the 7th May, 1893. I believe the Registrar General to have been animated by the very highest and best motives. It was a good thing in itself that the Chinese should subscribe freely for the useful and charitable purpose of the Po Leung Kuk; it was well that they should be urged to do so, and persuaded out of their objections and prejudices. It was natural that the Registrar General should take an interest in the Society, and do all he could to further its objects. I am sure that he made use of nothing but the most legitimate argument in his efforts to gain subscribers, and that no man who refused to subscribe would find any difference made in his dealings with the Registrar General afterwards. But I am equally confident that in the minds of the Chinese there was the dread that refusal would influence the action of the Registrar General in the Chinese, capable of separating Mr. Lockhart from the Registrar General, and I

quote here, in support of my opinion, from a speech of the Honourable Dr. Ho Kai, delivered in the Legislative Council on the 25th March, 1891, during the discussion on the *Gambling Ordinance*.


"It is very easy to get Chinese to come to one's office, especially the Registrar General's Office, and get them to say what one wants, for on asking them certain questions they, observing the same deference they pay to officials of their own nation, will simply say 'Yes, Ay' to every question addressed to them, although at the same time they do not agree with the opinion expressed. It is a matter of notoriety that they will not contradict official remarks. I wish when the Registrar General wishes information he would get it in a fair and just manner, allow the Chinese to come together to open meeting and then give the result arrived at, instead of taking opinions given under—I will not say the terror, but—the peculiar feeling with which they come before a high official." I must say that I regret that the subscriptions for the Po Leung Kuk were not obtained from the Chinese in public meeting or on the solicitation of their fellows, instead of being, as very many of them were, obtained as the result of personal interviews with the Registrar General at his office and under "the peculiar feeling" with which Chinese come before a high official.

My conclusion on this point is that in the past there has been no general interest taken by the Chinese in the Po Leung Kuk or in its operations, no subscribers, no subscriptions, no annual meetings, and no elections in due form. The so-called Po Leung Kuk, which is merely a Committee of the Tung Wah Hospital, supported by the Tung Wah Hospital and Man Mo Temple, and by contributions from the Directors only. To say that because the Tung Wah Hospital, a corporate body, defrayed all the expenses out of its corporate funds, therefore all the members of the Tung Wah Hospital may be looked on as members of Po Leung Kuk, is simply to play with words. It might just as well be said that because the Government once subscribed \$1,000 therefore the members of the Government were members of the Po Leung Kuk.

However irregularly constituted, it must be admitted that the members of the so-called Po Leung Kuk Committee and the Tung Wah Hospital have done good service in the suppression and detection of kidnapping, in finding food and shelter for women and children, and in assisting the Registrar General in the investigation of cases referred to them. The somewhat wild expressions in the second paragraph, on page viii, of the Report drafted by the Chairman, about "thousands" of women and girls

THURSDAY, 31st OCTOBER, 1923.

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